



SOUND AND LIGHT SNOW, planned for the Public Garden, is discussed by Yale student William Crosby (left) and Parks Comr. John Warner.

Sound-Light Show For Public Garden

By KEN O. BOTWRIGHT
Staff Reporter

Ducks scuttled out of the water in alarm Thursday, pigeons flew in panicky circles, and people walked around shaking their heads and muttering as an eerie, insistent "bleep-bloop-bleep - bloop" reverberated throughout the staidly beautiful confines of Boston's Public Garden.

The cacaphony emanated from a bunch of electronic gadgets on the Swan Boat dock. They were operated by seven earnest young men with shaggy hair.

Looking on, as the young men fussed with their equipment and as city workmen strung cables through the trees, was Parks Comr. John D. Warner.

He disclosed that the complex technical operation was preparation for a sound-and-light show, in the Public Garden from next Tuesday through Oct. 27.

"It will be the first show of its kind in any United States city," said Warner.

"We hope the show will attract people with families, but not the lunatic fringe."

The demonstration — which will run nightly from sunset to 10 p.m. — is being co-sponsored by the city Parks Dept., the Federal government and private industry.

"It won't cost the city a cent," said Warner.

The show will be produced by the seven shaggy young men, who are members of PULSA, a team of research associates from the Yale University department of art.

They have been consulting an architectural and environmental design firm that's working on an urban lighting and a street sign project for the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

As Warner talked, the "bleep-bloop" suddenly changed to a piercing "whee-eee-eee," and reporters clapped their hands to pained ear-drums.

Red-headed Patrick Clancy, a member of the Yale team, pointed out that the racket was coming from one of the 52 white speakers floating on the placid surface of the four-acre pond in Boston Garden.

"The sound will be much pleasanter and fat more varied when the show begins, I assure you," promised Clancy.

"It had better be," cracked one by-stander. "Today a duck was seen trying to make love to one of the speakers."

The light will come from 55 strobe lights, already placed under water and marked by sticks with orange streamers.

"It will be a public art form," Clancy continued. "The sound and light will be programmed by elements of analog and digital computers, a punch paper tape reader, a signal synthesizer and magnetic tape."